National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications

Purpose: The National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications (NCC) is a joint industry and Government staffed organization that assists in the initiation, coordination, restoration, and reconstitution of national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) telecommunications services and facilities under crisis or emergency conditions.

Background: In 1982, meetings among telecommunications industry and Federal Government representatives identified the need for a joint mechanism to coordinate initiation and restoration of NS/EP telecommunications services. In 1984, the NCC commenced operations. Since that time, the NCC has responded to a full range of emergencies— from catastrophic storms and natural disasters to terrorist attacks and wartime activities.

The NCC is collocated with the National Communications System (NCS) Headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Full-time telecommunications industry and Government representatives staff the NCC and serve as liaisons with their parent organizations. As a result of this collocation, the synergy fostered between the telecommunications industry and Government has provided an operational focal point for all Government/ industry NS/EP telecommunications response across the spectrum of emergencies.

Highlights:

❒ The NCC served as the collection point for network statuses during the Year 2000 (Y2K) rollover for the telecommunications industry. Over 80 companies both nationally and internationally provided status updates into a Y2K database located in the NCC. The NCC worked with U.S. telecommunications companies as well as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to develop both the data sharing tools and the information sharing agreements that facilitated the real time sharing of information.

❒ NSTAC chose the NCC to be an Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) for the telecommunications sector in support of Presidential Decision Directive 63 (PDD-63). Initial Operating Capability March 1, 2000. The NCC is implementing an automated system to facilitate the sharing of information with industry partners in the ISAC.

NCC Membership, as of 1/21/2000	
Industry Representatives	Federal Participants
— AT&T	— Department of State
— COMSAT	— Department of Defense
— GTE	— Department of Justice
— ITT	— Department of Commerce
— MCIWorldCom	— Federal Emergency
— National Telecommunications	Management Agency (FEMA)
Alliance (NTA)	— General Services
---- Sprint	Administration (GSA)
— United States Telecom	— Federal Communications
Association (USTA)	Commission (FCC)

❒ The NCC provided national and regional level support to major Presidential disaster declarations, including Hurricanes Bret and Floyd in 1999. The support included use of SHARES to pass emergency message traffic.

❒ The NCC continues to be involved in international emergency response planning, including the North American Treaty Organization's (NATO) Civil Communications Planning Committee. Additionally, the NCC coordinated Canadian assistance to United States telecommunications industry in the cross-border response efforts following the floods in the Pacific Northwest

Contact Information: Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Manager, NCC. Telephone: (703) 607-4900 ◆ Fax: (703) 607-4998 E-mail: ncs@ncs.gov Web: http://www.ncs.gov/ncc/htm